

Communique

Memorandum of Understanding Discussion

The Agriculture and Production Horticulture Industry Reference Committee accepted the *Memorandum of Understanding* with Skills Impact, noting the *IRC Operating Framework* and the process of training package development.

IRC Skills Forecasts and Proposed Schedules of Work The IRC discussed its role in the development of the *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*. The IRC will consult widely with broader industry and provide feedback on the 2017-2020 *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*, to enable the update for 2018. The IRC discussed *Section D- Skills Outlook*, to identify smaller projects and prioritise them for submission to the Australia Industry Skills Council (AISC). The IRC discussed and agreed on the methodology for updating the *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*, including activities proposed by Skills Impact.

The IRC noted the current activity orders issued by the AISC and the process of developing the *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work*. The IRC put forward some future skills areas of note, including: protected cropping, compliance and regulation of therapeutic crops, on-farm food safety programs, conducting research trails including data collection and implementing on-farm biosecurity.

Training Package Development

Skills Impact provided an update for the IRC about its work as an SSO and provided an overview of the training package development process.

The IRC noted the issues associated with the *AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package* and recognised that Skills Impact is required to keep an *Enquiries and Issues Register* as part of its contractual arrangements to the Department of Education and Training.

Enquiries can include queries about how to use the training package and issues can range from concerns with the design of the training package, through to suggestions for new units of competency, skill sets, qualifications, or materials to support delivery.

Reports are generated for each training package. All enquiries are responded to and closed within two to five working days, depending on level of complexity.

Training Package Maintenance

The IRC discussed the requirement to remove obsolete units, skill sets and qualifications from the *AHC Training Package* as part of the focus of the AISC, and the rationalisation of all training package components including the identification and removal of obsolete qualifications and units.

Next meeting – **March 2018**